

Appl. No. 10/075,281 Handshuh
Amendment dated August 18, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated May 16, 2003

REMARKS:

In response to the Office Action of May 16, 2003, claims 1-7 were cancelled and new claims 8-15 submitted. Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Guest.

Newly submitted claims 8-15 relate to an apparatus for minimizing the coking in bearings of a turbine, including a lubricant reservoir, first and second lubricant supply lines extending from the lubricant reservoir to the turbine bearings, and a main pump connected to the first lubricant supply line for supplying the lubricant to the bearings. The apparatus further includes an auxiliary pump connected to the second lubricant supply line for supplying the lubricant to the bearings, and a control means connected to the turbine and the auxiliary pump for turning on the auxiliary pump when the turbine is turned off, to continue the supply of lubricant to the bearings to prevent potential coking conditions in the bearings when the turbine is turned off. Temperature sensors are connected to the control means and the lubricant return conduit for measuring the temperature of the lubricant in the lubricant return conduit and for turning off the auxiliary pump when the temperature of the lubricant in the lubricant return conduit drops below a predetermined temperature.

The Guest reference does not appear to suggest or teach two separate and distinct lubricant supply lines for independently supplying lubricating oil to turbine bearings, where one-way valves, for example, are used to ensure that lubricant is able to flow independently in the different supply lines. Since the applied art of record does not suggest

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or teach the limitation of separate and independent lubricant supply lines, all pending claims are considered allowable.

Please charge the fees and any costs for this Amendment and a One Month Extension Of Time to the U.S. Patent Office Deposit Account number 19-2201 for the U.S. Army Materiel Command. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to this numbered Deposit Account.

September 16, 2003



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